

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on Form PTO SB/08 A & B filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on February 24, 2004.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 13-16, 22, 24, and 25 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant rewrites claim 13 into its independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claims 13-16.

By this Amendment, Applicant also amends claims 1 and 10 to include a limitation similar to the subject matter of claim 22. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment to claims 1 and 10 should be entered as it does not raise any new issues in need of further search. In particular, claims 1 and 10, as now amended, recite irradiating the entire image carrier at the same time.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow claims 1 and 10. The cited references fail to teach or suggest “at same time irradiating the entire image carrier...with a stimulating ray”. Instead, the cited prior art is no different from the prior art disclosed in Applicant’s specifications. That is, both Zarling and Pollack disclose a method of stopping the emission during the detection. In Zarling, the laser light is preferably focused on a small region of the sample, and the light emanating from this region is collected and directed to a detector. In

Pollack, the light is focused on a small portion of the sample and it is this small portion that is detected by the camera (for details, see pages 12-13 of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on February 24, 2004). In short, Zarling and Pollack teach irradiating a sample in parts. That is, both references teach sequential irradiation and residual detection. Because the wells are irradiated and detected gradually, the progress of reaction of the specimen solution in the wells become different between the individual wells. This process also takes a long time. In short, both references fail to teach or suggest "at same time irradiating the entire image carrier...with a stimulating ray".

The Examiner acknowledges that Zarling and Pollack emit light to only a portion of the sample. Hence, the Examiner indicated that claim 22 contains allowable subject matter. In response to the arguments submitted in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on February 24, 2004, the Examiner alleges that the features relied on by the Applicant are not in the claim language (page 5 of the Office Action). Claims 1 and 10 are now amended to positively recite these features. None of the secondary references make up for the above deficiencies of Pollack and Zarling. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 10 and all claims dependent therefrom are patentable for at least these reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 09/988,370

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

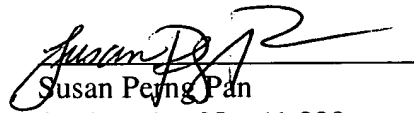
Respectfully submitted,

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